

# Chapter 49 CLIMBING TOOLS

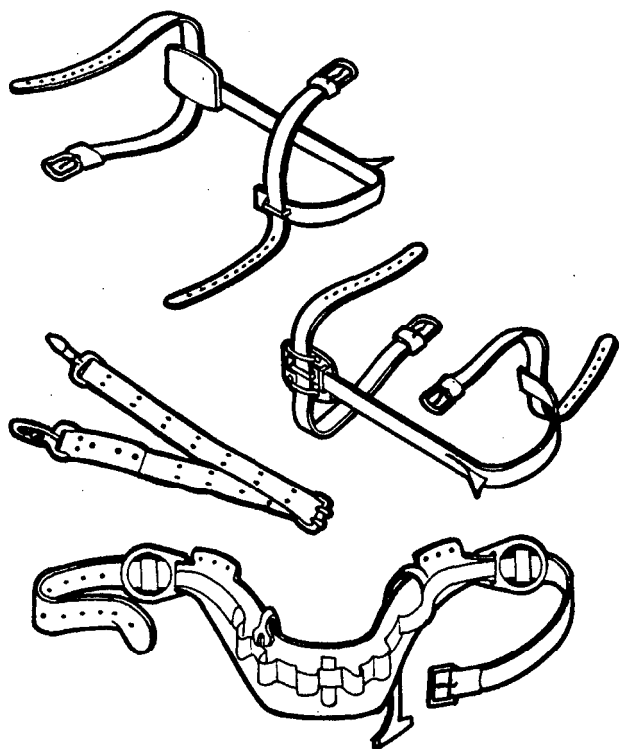
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## HOW TO CHOOSE AND USE THEM

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The "Types and Uses" section provides you with a list of some of the types of climbing tools. These pages should help you select the right climbing tool to do the job.

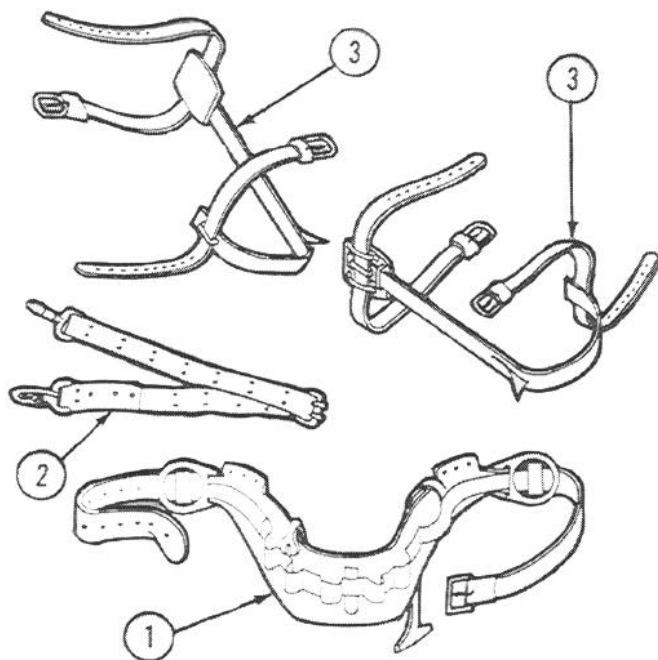
The "Using" section tells you how to use climbing tools to perform the desired function. The "Care" procedures tell you how to care for the item.



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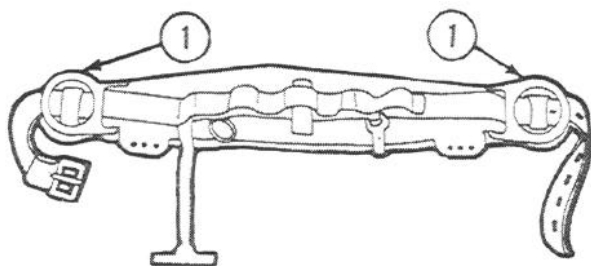
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## TYPES AND USES



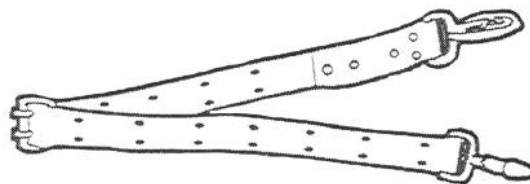
Climbing tools consist of safety belts (1), safety straps (2) and leg irons with spurs (3). Climbing tools are used for scaling poles and trees, erecting power lines, and for support when clearing and topping trees.

### SAFETY BELT



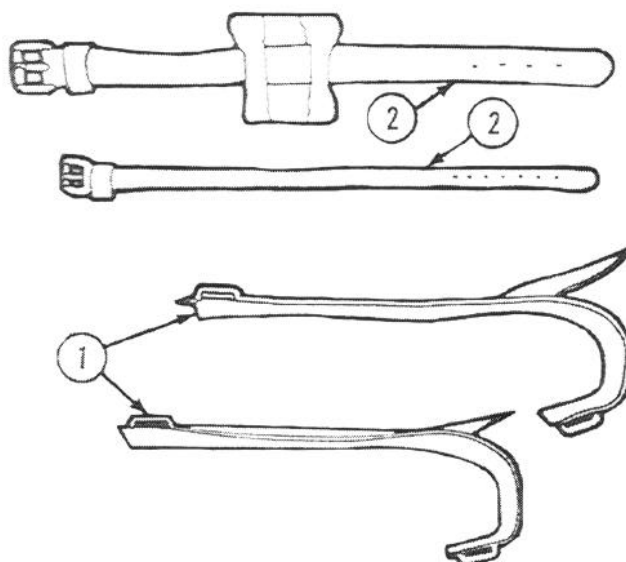
The safety belt is an adjustable leather belt that has loops in which to carry tools. It also has two D-rings (1) attached to hold the safety strap.

### SAFETY STRAP



The safety strap is a leather strap with metal snap hooks on each end. These hooks attach to the D-rings on the safety belt.

### LEG IRONS

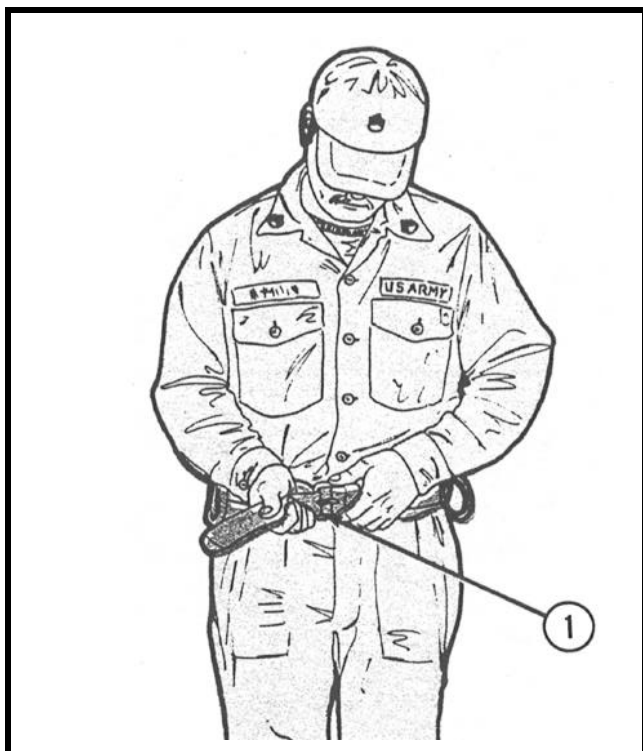


The leg irons (1) are often called tree and pole climbers. They consist of flattened metal bars, curved at one end to fit under the foot arch, and with the straight portion along the inside of the lower leg. Leather straps (2) secure the irons to the leg and ankle.

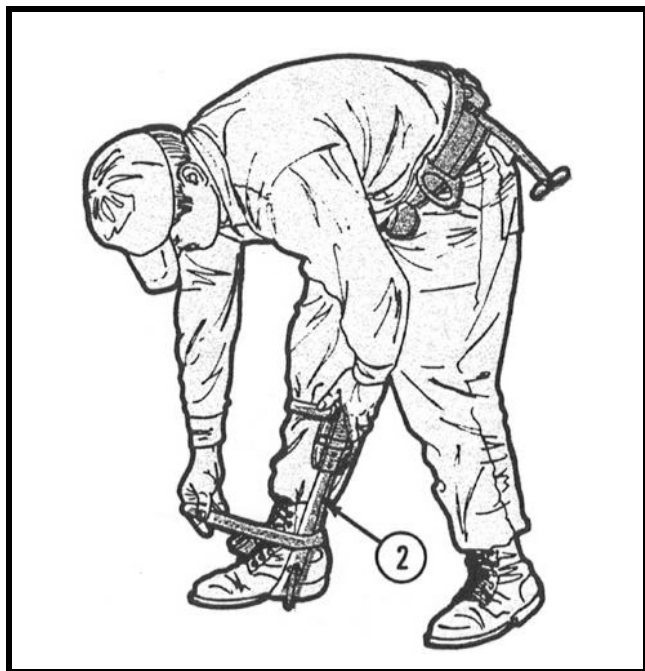
## SAFETY

1. Always inspect climbing tools thoroughly before using them.
2. Never climb without using a safety strap.
3. When climbing, insure that the spurs are securely driven into the wood at each stop.
4. Do not use any belt or strap that is cracked or dried-out.
5. Never use a safety belt or safety strap with broken, bent or badly worn rings or fasteners.

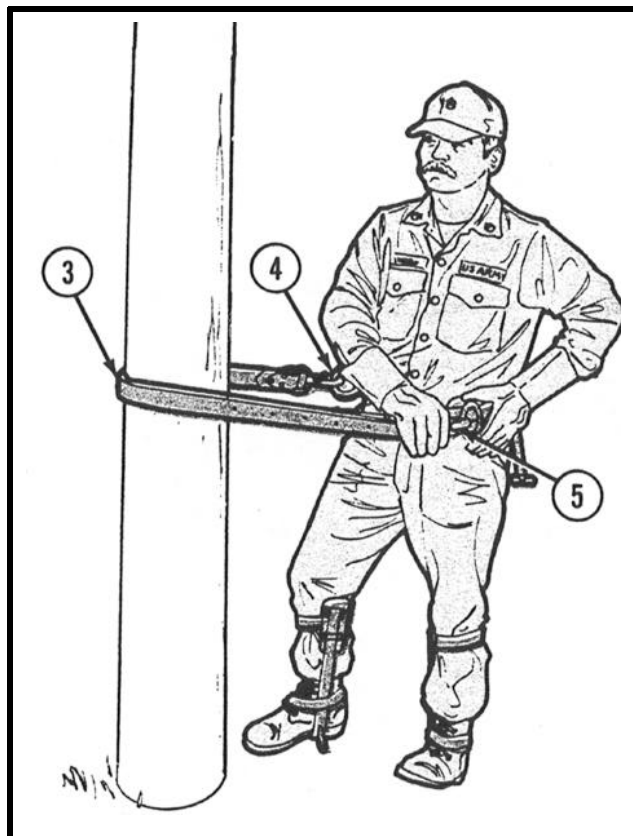
## USING CLIMBING TOOLS



- 1 Secure safety belt (1) around waist and place tools needed in position on belt.



- 2 Strap the leg irons (2) to the legs and feet.

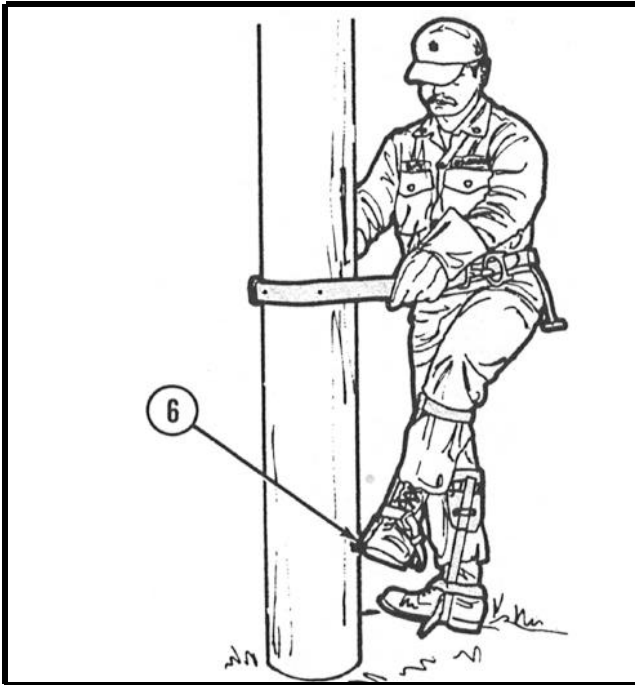


- 3 Snap the safety strap (3) to one D-ring (4) on the belt, pass the strap around the pole to be climbed, and snap, the other end of the safety strap to the other D-ring (5).

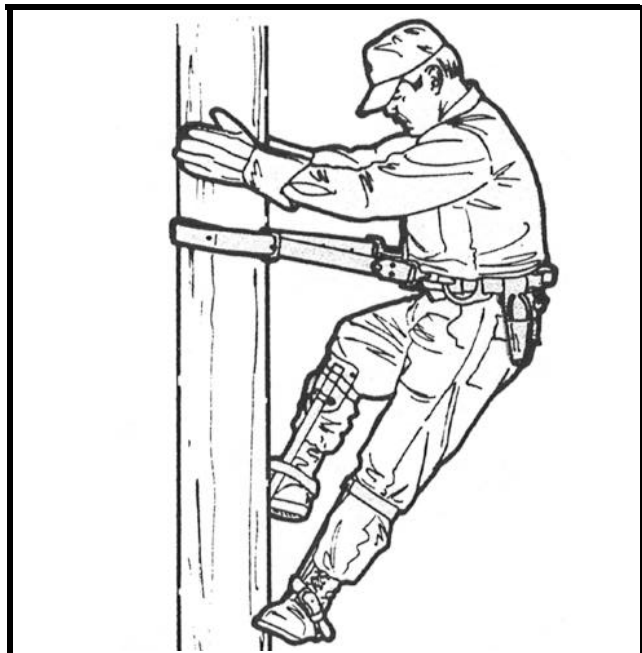
### WARNING

Before placing your weight on the strap, look to see that the snap and D-ring are properly engaged. Do not rely on the click of the snap-tongue as an indication that the fastening is secure.

## USING CLIMBING TOOLS - Continued

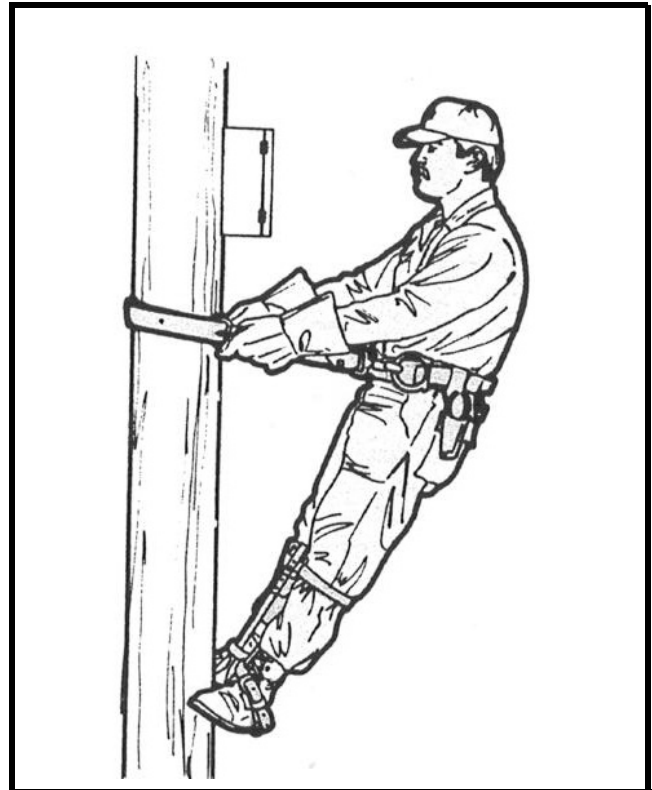


- 4 Begin the climb by driving one leg iron gaff (6) into the pole so the gaff has a solid hold.
- 5 Place your weight on the embedded gaff and drive the other gaff into the pole a little higher than the first.



- 6 Begin the climb using the procedure outlined in step 5.

- 7 While climbing, lean your body away from the pole to prevent the safety strap from slipping.
- 8 Keep both hands on the pole until the safety strap needs moving.
- 9 With both gaffs firmly embedded in the pole, slide the safety strap up the pole.



- 10 When desired height is reached, sink both gaffs into the pole at the same level.
- 11 Lean back with the safety strap around the pole slightly higher than the safety belt. Hold this position while working.

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## CARE OF CLIMBING TOOLS

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1. Keep leather items soft and supple by occasionally applying neat's foot oil.
2. Examine all stitching frequently and repair immediately if needed.
3. Inspect D-rings on the safety belt and snap-hooks of the safety strap frequently.
4. Keep spurs sharp by filing after use.
5. Store leather parts away from extreme heat.
6. Oil all metal parts before storing.
7. Lay metal leg irons away so spur points will not be damaged by coming in contact with other tools.

